

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

It Concerns You

Do not fail to read first and second column, page 14. Among the items in those columns one or the other is sure to interest and concern you.

Fathers, Mothers, Girls and Boys, Hearken!

William Allen White contributes an article to the Saturday Evening Post, which, while not a religious article, moralizes along lines of such importance to Christian parents and young people, that we regard the article of sufficient merit to give it a conspicuous place in the editorial columns of the EVANGELIST. The subject is one that should interest every father and mother in the land, and we are quite sure that a careful perusal of the article will prove helpful to many of our readers. It is as follows:

Recently, during what the newspapers please to call a "sensational murder trial" in a Western city, testimony was put on the record which indicates rather broadly a condition that is interesting to students of society, if not alarming to moralizers. The man who was slain and the slayer moved, according to the newspapers, in the circle known as the best society of the city. The motive of the crime was jealousy. The name of the young woman thus brought into the case occurs frequently in the printed list of those present at the most important social gatherings in the town. Yet the testimony in the murder case developed the fact that in entertaining her young man friends in her father's house conversation ran glibly over topics that are not topics for conversation.

Democracy has removed much romance from life. The daily newspaper which every young person reads speaks plainly at its best and pruriently at its worst of every possible situation in human existence. The billboards along the street-car line proclaim shamelessly those facts of life which a few generations ago were not spoken of "in the presence of Mrs. Micawber." The theatre makes stage pictures of scenes which gentlemen at their club can only hint in pauses in the dialogue. The heroes of historical novels of the day get into dramatic messes that should send the gentle reader into hysterics with shocked modesty. But the gentle reader only puts a finger in the next leaf ahead in the volume and reads on.

And with all this frank and undisguised discussion before them of matters once tabooed, young people are turned into the front parlor alone to spend evenings, and when the talk runs into swamps, the world in the back parlor is astounded.

And this brings up the question: What are we going to do about it? One can't change the civilization which sends the town crier around with a bell to herald the knowledge of good and evil. One can hardly put blinders on the girls and ear-muffs on the boys. It will do no more good to prohibit than to regret. Young people must live in the world that now is, and live cleanly and wholesomely and "without any amazement." But they must have help from their elders.

The American custom of allowing boys and girls absolute liberty in their courtship, of allowing love-making "at all hours," is responsible for much that is disagreeable in society. Too many affairs like the one above mentioned out West are getting into the tax receipts of citizens thru court costs. If young people are not guided and controlled in some degree by their elders, the law will have to step in and regulate these matters. If parents persist in shunning the parlor as a place forbidden to them, if mothers turn their daughters over to the newspapers and billboards and theatres and novels for spiritual refreshment and confidence, if fathers let their sons get their education and moral ideals from the street, then the world must not complain at the sight of its tax bills.

It is pretty nearly a question whether the chaperon or the sheriff shall step in, and regulate or control the Sunday night performance in the parlor.

"In Him Shall the Gentiles Trust."

Romans 15: 12.

The late Senator Cushman Davis said a short time before his death: "Something happened in the first century which destroyed the old world and gave birth to the new." That something was the advent of Jesus Christ, his marvelous life, his sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. Had this beginning of the Christian civilization possessed merely the vitality of a human movement, it would never have survived that first century. It would never have gone outside of the narrow province which gave it birth, and the Gentiles would never have heard of it. Granting that there was no element of divine grace or divine power in this movement, can we imagine how it would be possible for the story of a crucified Jew to supplant, in the Gentile mind, the splendid intellectualism of Grecian philosophy and culture? The traditions of that most brilliant of pagan civilizations continued to shed its splendors upon the world, and cultivated Gentiles were proud to put their trust in the old philosophers, whose utterances seemed, in their penetrating and luminous wisdom, to be inspired of the gods. Think also of the Roman patriot, resting his deductions upon the invincible might of a universal empire. What else was there under the sun in which to trust? What other trust was needed? What fact